

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Examiner's Office Action mailed January 16, 2008. Claims 8 and 13 are amended. Claims 8-11 and 13-22 are now pending in view of the above amendments.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments to the claims and the following remarks. For the Examiner's convenience and reference, Applicants' remarks are presented in the order in which the corresponding issues were raised in the Office Action.

Please note that the following remarks are not intended to be an exhaustive enumeration of the distinctions between any cited references and the claimed invention. Rather, the distinctions identified and discussed below are presented solely by way of example to illustrate some of the differences between the claimed invention and the cited references. In addition, Applicants request that the Examiner carefully review any references discussed below to ensure that Applicants' understanding and discussion of the references, if any, is consistent with the Examiner's understanding.

The Examiner rejects claims 8-11 and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Frankel et al.* (U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0193974) in view of *Zorabedian* (U.S. Patent No. 5,325,378).

Applicants traverse the Examiner's rejection for obviousness on the grounds that the references – either individually or in combination – fail to teach or suggest each and every element of the rejected claims. In particular, the cited references do not teach or suggest a first thermo-optic prism and a second prism in combination with the other elements of the claim, wherein the "the second prism arranged to correct an aberration introduced by the first thermo-optic prism in order to restore the quality and shape of the light from each of the spatially offset tunable lasers" as recited in claims 8 and 13.

In contrast, *Zorabedian* teaches disposing prisms (24, 25) such that they “cause the beam to expand in the plane of the drawing.” Col. 3, Ins. 1-3. As is apparent in Figure 3 (below), the beam exiting the second prism (25) has not corrected “an aberration introduced by the first thermo-optic prism” as recited in claims 8 and 13. Instead, the beam has been further deformed and broadened. Disposing the prisms (24, 25) as recited in the claims would fail to provide the spreading function for which the prisms (24, 25) are used. *Zorabedian* therefore teaches against combination with *Frankel* to achieve the claimed invention.

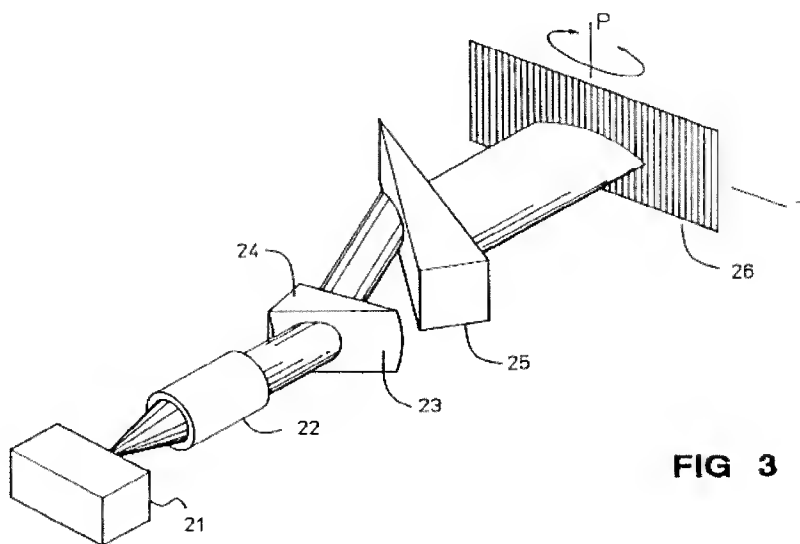


FIG 3

Frankel fails to remedy the deficiencies of *Zorabedian*. *Frankel* fails to teach the use of a second prism and further fails to teach use of a second prism “arranged to correct an aberration introduced by the first thermo-optic prism in order to restore the quality and shape of the light from each of the spatially offset tunable lasers.” A second prism added to the system of *Frankel* according to the teachings of *Zorabedian* would deform and broaden the output beam.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe the claims as amended are in allowable form. In the event that the Examiner finds remaining impediment to a prompt allowance of this application that may be clarified through a telephone interview, or which may be overcome by an Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney.

Dated this 21st day of March 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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